

Cash for Guns Yields Rewards for Cav

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE THUNDER- Seven-point-six-two millimeter small arms weapons, mortars and rocket propelled grenades (RPG), are the weapon of choice for enemies of the coalition. They collect them for use. We collect them for destruction. Everyday, weapons are confiscated from potential enemies during coalition raids conducted in the Baghdad area.

Iraqis, however, don't have to wait until a raid comes to their neighborhood to give up weapons to authorities. There is a program that exchanges money for weapons and information. It was started by the 1st Armored Division at FOB Thunder last year, and continues under the 2nd Battalion 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Owning a weapon is not illegal in Iraq. Local civilians are allowed to have one registered weapon. Anything more than one is illegal, and can lead to arrest.

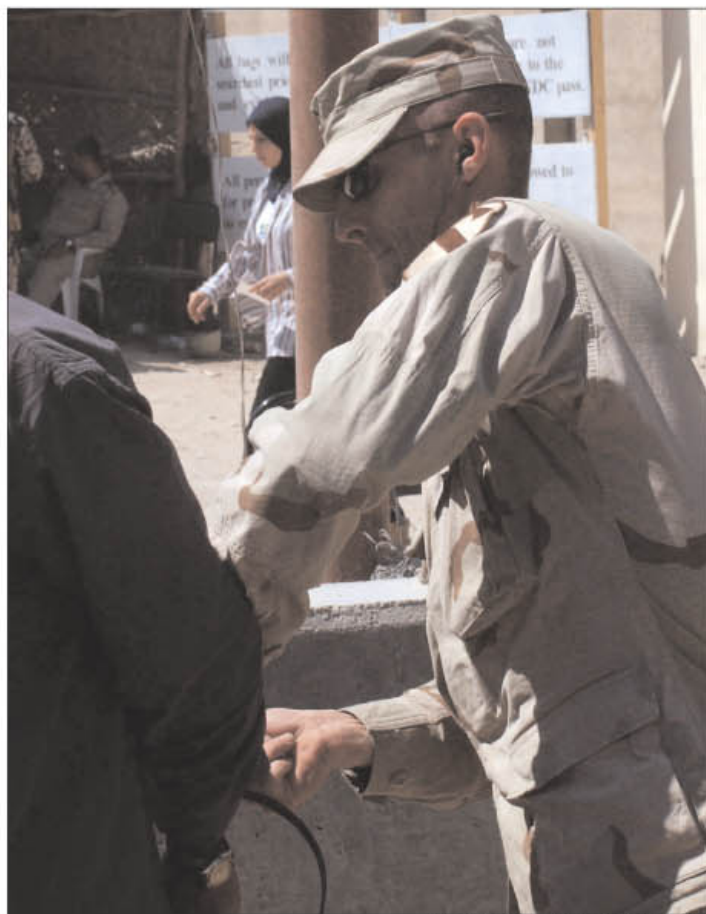
Because of the exchange program, however, Iraqis can provide illegal weapons to Soldiers at FOB Thunder during set times and dates, with no repercussions. In fact, turning in certain weapons, like SA-7s entitle civilians to monetary rewards. So does information that leads to the arrest of a person responsible for attacking coalition forces.

"I think it's [a] very important [program]. Since I've been here, we've had people bring in grenades, RPGs, and mortars," Staff Sgt. James Seginak an intelligence analyst with the 2-12 Cav. said. "That right there is a lot less weapons that are being fired at coalition forces."

The program is intended to work for both the Iraqis and for Soldiers. Basically, when the insurgents don't have access to weapons, there is less potential for violence on Baghdad streets.

"It's safer for their country, for their neighborhood and for their kids," Seginak said. "[There is also the] possibility

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By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Staff Sgt. Jacob Thomas, 2-12 Cav. Headquarters Company arrests a suspected anti-coalition insurgent at FOB Thunder. The 2-12 Cav. sometimes uses FOB Thunder as an interface between Soldiers and locals.

Engineers: Helping Iraqis Build Roads to the Future

By Capt. Brian O'Malley
1st Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DRAGON- More than \$4-million has been earmarked to restore 12 miles of local roads in the eastern portion of the Iraqi capitol city.

The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to train and supervise local Iraqi work-

men to begin these road improvement projects, according to Civil Affairs Capt. Brian Donnelly.

"This is a major step in rebuilding the city," Donnelly said.

He added that these projects, funded by the coalition, would also create jobs for local Iraqis, noting that they would help spur the economy by

bringing money and commerce into all areas of Baghdad.

Individual projects are already underway. Coalition forces, along with Iraqi workers, repaired part of a bridge that had been blown up by an insurgent-placed Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Working together, they were able to open up one lane, restoring traffic flow to parts of

southern Baghdad.

"When attacks like this happen, it only helps to strengthen the Iraqi and Coalition partnership," said Maj. David Clore, an advisor for coalition troops in eastern Baghdad. "It brings us together to help defeat a common enemy, and provides us an opportunity to work together

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2-12 Cav. Gathers Weapons, Information



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Capt. Joseph Pace and Staff Sgt. James Seginak from the 2-12 Cav. question a suspected anti-coalition insurgent at FOB Thunder. Pace and Seginak work with locals to obtain information about suspected insurgent activities.

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of getting a reward for whatever type of weapon they bring in."

Though the program is working well, it is not without risk. Seginak said local Iraqis who come of their own free will to provide information or weapons face the possibility of being targeted by insurgents.

Likewise, the Soldiers at FOB Thunder face the possibility that an enemy will use the program as a disguise for an attack.

"We're very cautious about when people bring things in, to make sure they are not handling the weapons," Seginak said. "Usually, they are carrying them in a bag or a vehicle, and they just show them to us."

► 1st Cav Div Soldiers Extend Their Term of Service



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

1st Cavalry Division Soldiers raise their hands and repeat the oath of reenlistment given by Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, 1st Cav. Div. commanding general, in front of the Division Headquarters Main April 20.

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Today in History

April 21

► From historychannel.com

753 B.C. Rome founded
1836 The Battle of San Jacinto
1838 Naturalist John Muir born
1863 Steight's Raid begins
1895 First projected movie in the U.S.
1918 Red Baron killed in action
1945 Red Army overruns German High Command as it approached the capital
1955 Last broadcast of Bob Hope's radio show
1956 Elvis Presley's first No. 1 hit (*Heartbreak Hotel*)
1989 Chinese students begin protests at Tianeman Square
1992 Death row executions resume in California

Waco 5th Graders Place 1st in State

► From *KWTX TV*

Fifth graders usually find no interest in the newspaper beyond the comics section. But there's one group of Central Texas youngsters who've read beyond the comics, and it's earned them statewide recognition.

Every week, about two or three times, we got in our News Bowl groups and we just talked about what we learned and what we've heard on the news and stuff like that," says Christian Shuler, a member of News Bowl, a national program that encourages kids to learn about current events, and be more aware of the things happening around them.

Travis Corley says, "It was a pretty fun program. We did really good in it and I learned alot of stuff from the sports section and other sections."

Students fine-tuned their

expertise in national news, world news, arts and entertainment, and sports.

Nathan Pool says, "I didn't think we would do this good but it was - some of it was hard, some of it was easy."

It was teacher Susan Lucenay's idea to get the kids involved in News Bowl.

"It's just the kind of thing where competition inspires the thing where they want to learn. So while you're having a good time you're learning things," she says.

She doesn't regret her decision a bit. Her 5th graders at Midway Intermediate placed first in the state of Texas and

13th in the nation.

Lucenay says, "The kids had worked really hard so I was pleased, pleased for them because all their hard work paid off."

It may be unusual for 5th graders to read beyond the funny pages. But these kids are setting a standard Lucenay thinks more and more kids are living up to.

"Kids today are so much more aware of what's going on so this is a great chance for them to kind of shine and they've got to know what's going on so this is inspiring them to want to do that and play up the competition," she says.

"Kids today are so much more aware of what's going on..."

**-Susan Lucenay
Teacher,
Midway
Intermediate
School, Waco**

BASIC RISK MANAGEMENT

Identifying hazards and implementing effective controls can, if properly supervised, help save Soldiers' lives.

Engineers Committed to Iraqis

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for the common good."

"We [the coalition and the Iraqi people] are gathering all our road-repair assets to make this project work," he continued. "The Coalition is committed to helping the Iraqi people rebuild their infrastructure. We will not be swayed by groups who wish to gain power at the

expense of the Iraqi people."

The bridge repair is just one of many projects that the coalition is conducting in a joint effort with local authorities. More projects are underway, including road repairs in the Al Thawra district and sewage system upgrades in other eastern Baghdad neighborhoods.

Wednesday

High: 87
Low: 68



Thursday

High: 90
Low: 66



Friday

High: 89
Low: 66



Reminder: Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9

There's still time to mail a card or send flowers.



FIRST TEAM

Franklin Athlete Demonstrates Abilities on the Track, Turf

► From *The Oregonian*

As an athlete of many talents, it's not surprising that Matt Evensen was able to pull off an improbable double last fall.

Evensen — a Franklin senior — was among the Portland Interscholastic League's best athletes in two sports at the same time.

Evensen was a first-team all-PIL selection in soccer as a midfielder and also garnered first-team honors as a punter in football. Evensen accomplished the latter while being able to devote what he says was about "20 minutes a day" to the sport.

Now, Evensen is one of Oregon's top track athletes, excelling in the long and triple jumps and the 400 meters.

It's all evidence of what many coaches and athletes in the PIL have known for a couple of years: Even though Evensen doesn't look particularly imposing at 6-foot-1 and 175 pounds, he's probably one

of the best all-around athletes in the city. But you'd never hear that from him.

A longtime English teacher at the Southeast Portland school, Kendig is well-versed in Evensen's abilities. He coached Evensen his first three years at Franklin in soccer and track. Last fall, Kendig was the Quakers' kicking coach in football.

"If you are in the coaching business long enough, you'll get maybe a few Matt Evensens, if you are fortunate," Kendig said. "When he leaves Franklin, there will be a real void."

Filling his shoes will take much work in many areas.

Evensen said he's played soccer since he was 4. As Franklin's captain, he scored nine goals during the 2003 season.

Following a soccer match or practice, Evensen often would run to football practice to get in some kicking. Despite the small window of time



The Oregonian

Portland's Franklin High senior, Matt Evensen, excels in track & field, as well as soccer and football. He plans to "walk on" at the University of Oregon next fall as a punter.

Evensen was able to give football, he was among the state's top kickers and punters. In league play, Evensen averaged a PIL-best 38.9 yards per punt. Many of his kickoffs sailed through the end zone.

"It was basically part of the game we didn't have to worry about," said Scott Santangelo, Franklin's offensive coordinator and co-athletic

director.

Evensen's lack of punting experience hardly showed.

"He had some punts that had hang times in excess of five seconds, which is unreal," Kendig said.

Franklin football coach Tom McCarthy has contacted Oregon on Evensen's behalf. Evensen said he plans to walk on at Oregon this fall.

Evensen said this summer he will focus on kicking in preparation for his shot at college football. But for now, he's turning heads in track.

"He could probably do all 17 events, he's that good," Kendig said.

Evensen is among the state leaders in the 400 meters with a converted time of 49.74 seconds. He finished second at the Class 4A state meet last year in the long jump and could challenge for the title in the triple jump as well.

Evensen's secret to success? He combines athleticism with a nonstop motor.

TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Popular Mechanics for Kids/Liberty's Kids	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/The Late Show with David Letterman	NHL Playoffs: Round 1 Gm 7 - Ottawa Senators @ Toronto Maple Leafs	Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan 17:00
19:00	Jeopardy/Headline News	Access Hollywood 19:30	Sportscenter	The Wild Thornberrys/The Fairly Oddparents
20:00	ESPNNews/Headline News	The Full Monty	ESPNNews/Baseball Tonight 20:20	The Simpsons/The Cosby Show
21:00	8 Simple Rules.../The Bernie Mac Show	You've Got Mail 21:45	Motorcycle Racing	American Idol
22:00	America's Next Top Model		Motorcycle Racing	Star Trek: Next Generation

Sports



NBA:

LeBron James named Rookie of the Year



STANLEY CUP SEMIFINALS

Eastern Conference

Tampa Bay vs. Montreal
Philadelphia vs.
Toronto/Ottawa winner

Western Conference

Detroit vs. Calgary
San Jose vs. Colorado